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GREEN VALLEY [Ariz.] NEWS

ARIVACA ECHOES

Paul Bell--long time Arivacanan--recounts early ad

By MARY JANE
BROADHURST

The Arizona Historical Society remembered last week the March 13 anniversary of a skirmish in Nogales involving Mexican troops, in 1913, with units of the U.S. Fifth Cavalry on protective duty in the hills around the border.

Arivaca is honored to have living here Paul Bell who was a member of those troops in that operation. Bell was celebrating another anniversary last weekend — his 83rd birthday on March 16. At a recent interview in his home on Arivaca Road, he recounted some of the stories of his adventurous life.

Born in Oppenheim am Rhein, Germany, in 1892, where his father's family traces back to 1477, he came to America aged 19, having heard wonderful stories from an uncle who had worked as an engineer on the building of the Brooklyn Bridge.

His first glimpse of Arizona was in 1912, when having enlisted in the Army after jobs in New York and Detroit, his troop train stopped in Tucson where he remembers seeing the mule-drawn street cars.

Starting from Fort Huachuca, he was soon patrolling the border area from Sonoita to Arivaca, with the Fifth Cavalry — involving encounters in the Nogales area with the Federales (Mexican troops) and Pancho Villa and other noted figures of the times.

In 1915 he was trucking freight for M.C. Hubbell of Arivaca. He and two other men drove (one had a Maxwell truck, another a Nash) their cargo route from Amado to Ruby to Arivaca. The three drove together, always "with a pick, shovel and ax" so they could help each other through the hazards of those old roads.

Following the trucking venture he went to Mexico and became an accomplished pilot.

After a stint of flying leaflet-dropping advertising flights out of Mexico City

here from California in a much overloaded Model T pickup which everyone had assured him would never make it.

A few years later he moved to his present adobe home east of the Marley Ranch headquarters. He and his wife, who passed away five years ago, were well known in the area and were always a jolly addition to the local dances. Mrs. Bell drove the Sopori-Arivaca school bus for some years.

Now somewhat incapacitated by arthritis, Mr. Bell enjoys visits from old friends and neighbors. The day we were there Mr. and Mrs. August Heimbuch from next door had come in to see him, bringing one of his favorite casserole dishes.

To celebrate the birthday last weekend, his daughter Mrs. Kenneth (Lee) Taylor and family came from San Manuel, where Mr. Taylor is with the State Highway Patrol.

We know our readers and his many friends in the area will join in wishing Paul Bell many more happy birthdays to come.

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History-minded southern Arizonans will be interested in the current publication of the articles of incorporation of the Ali-Bac Historical Association of Arivaca, Arizona, as a non-profit organization to promote the study of area history and encourage local arts and crafts.

Among those involved in

Following the trucking venture he went to Mexico and became an accomplished pilot.

After a stint of flying leaflet-dropping advertising flights out of Mexico City until a down-draft on take-off totalled his plane and some years in California he came back to his favorite Arivaca area and homesteaded on the then Manning, now Marley Ranch in 1930.

He drove all his goods